FINAL IN FLANDERS NOT LIKE ARGONNE

Forest Fighters Refer Inquirers to Record North of Verdun

POWDER RIVER IN FRONT

Stream a Mile Wide and an Inch Deep Brought to Attention of Prussian General

When the last job in Flanders was given one American division—just, to capture Audenarde and vicinity and, later, three kiolmeters of Spitaalsbosschen (a wood, that's all), they romped into the thing with a shrug of the shoulders and the air of doing a setting-up exercise. And they refuse to talk about it.

They refer you instead to the Argonne. Their record there is known. Green from training camps, never having heard the screech of a shell, they fought through forest undergrowth thick with machine guns and held by the Kaiser's best—through seven kilometers of it in one day. That night the First Prussian Guard, drawing off with a dull headache, had the hazy impression that America's greatest metropolis was not New York, as had been supposed, but a certain Powder River.

For that was the Yanks' war cry—"Powder River." And as they went up and over, they added with a whoop, "Let 'er buck!" The insinuation that this slogan was invented by a real estate man is untrue. It was the chance answer of a small boy at the head of the column, when he was asked what place the division had reached on a training hike. From that evening, through America, to France, to Belgium, the members of this outfit told the folks back home they were stationed at "Powder River." One way of putting it over on the censor.

"Mile Wide and an Inch Deep"

"Powder River a mile wide and an inch deep," means the 91st Division. Its members come mainly from California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Montana—and then add California again, because half are from that one State.

Spitaalsbosschen is a section of countryside with scattered groves, patches of farms, and a sprinkling of squatty farm buildings. It was held by machine gun nests cleverly placed. These the Yanks discovered, were to be found generally in three locations; at crossroads, behind hay stacks and in house roofs. Often the guns were so close together that, in flanking one, the Yanks would run into a neighboring nest not noticed before.

The Boche had planned well. His haystack fortress consisted of a semi-circular trench behind and partly under the stack in which the several occupants could move to the flanks to observe and retire to the center to man the gun in the middle of the stack itself. The straw afforded good protection.

The house roof position was held as a rule by merely one soldier, sometimes a boy, while another would be on the lookout to give directions. The gun was anchored, aimed at a set vantage point, its nose in position where one tile had been removed from the roof. These posts were almost impossible of detection.

Three Kilometers of Nests

Nevertheless, it took the Yanks only one day to mop up three kilometers worth of these nests, and in the doing of it they had inflicted casualties heavier than they suffered.

It is a story of individual initiative backed up by good co-ordination. Private Thomas Hall, an Intelligence man, with a comrade, for example, captured 13 men and two guns, being under shell fire most of the time. Another private, named Kleithoek—good name for a soldier fighting in Belgium—de[illegible] with two men, captured eight, a lieutenant, and important papers.

The Yanks had found themselves in a sunken road when they noticed this enemy squad marching in their direction on another parallel road. They could see the iron hats moving along the skyline. Increasing their pace, they reached the cross roads first.

"Then we just jumped out with our bayonets," says Kleithoek.

Then there is the story of the M. P. corporal who was among the first of the Infantrymen to enter Audenarde, and who whiles away the time by taking pot shots at German machine gunners with a rifle which he "just happened to pick up somewhere."

And there is the incident of the 100 members of a balloon company who having no duties of their own for 36 hours, became stretcher bearers. And a truck driver, Eddie Heckinger (who, by the way, used to play baseball for Memphis), happening to see a Boche plane light in a field near him, overtook the visitor in his old time three-base sprinting form and made two German officers prisoners.

Lots of Target Practice

Everyone, it seems, got as much moving target practice on the side as possible. Sergeant Fox of a headquarters company is one of the most famous of the snipe shooters—at machine gunners. His fire was so rapid and so effective on one occasion in the Argonne that the Germans began to see double and honored him with a private barrage. So far there is no other record of such a distinction for one man.

Privates Burre and Vavasis of the Intelligence section also gained fame when they got away with the whole crew of a 77, picking them off one by one.

This sort of wild game stalking was the steady recreation of the Engineer, Captain Leavell. Once, however, the game proved larger than he had expected. While on reconnaissance duty, carrying his rifle as was his habit, he noticed a machine gun nest. He had taken two shots and was just at the trigger squeeze period of the third when there was a terrific screech overhead. A branch and an armful of leaves, clipped off his protecting tree, fell over him. Turning, he saw that from a range of some 700 yards a 77 had opened fire on him. He could see the crew moving about in a small woods.

Forsaking his snipe shooting he turned his attention to this bigger game. They let him have another and then another. A rifle against a cannon. But the duel was a bit unfair; and after ten minutes or so the captain decided to withdraw.

Late one night Major Stanley Berry, once of football fame, now of the Medical Corps, came back to headquarters. His fellow officers looked at him in surprise. For he was covered with dirt and mud. His tin hat, sagging over one ear, would never have passed one of his own inspections. Medical majors do not generally look like that.

"Yes, rather soiled," he admitted, apologetically. "You see 30 buck privates and I have been building a bridge."

169,000 HORSES WORK FOR A.E.F.

Total of Million and Half Helped Allies to Win in France

GASOLINE FOR EVERYTHING

Animals, Worth Many Times Value in States, Go Round of Hospitals Like Rest of Us

After the battle of Verdun, in which the French held their lines against the desperate and protected onslaughts of the German Crown Prince with troops and munitions rushed forward almost wholly by automobile transport, some one called this a gasoline war.

The term stuck. The wonders of modern army transport, the quickness with which large bodies of men and huge quantities of supplies are moved have become commonplace. The automobile does it. So it is recorded, and so it has been accepted. The horse hasn't figured much in the calculations.

Now, however, steps forward the Billets and Remounts Division of G-1, which is charged with the responsibility of equipping and supplying the A.E.F. with animals for draft and riding, with a declaration that the horse and its hybrid offspring, the mule, have played a highly important part in this war, and the assertion that this was still very much a horse war.

Where Gasoline Can't Go

The automobile may have won at Verdun, says the Billets and Remounts Division, but the horse has won more victories than he has hairs on his top-knot—for, say they, no victory could have been attained, no push could have succeeded, unless the horse was on the job to pull the guns forward, to take up the rations, the water, the ammunition through mud where trucks could not go, or over shell-swept ground equally impassable for the gasoline-propelled vehicle.

There are 1,500,000 horses and mules doing their bit for the Allied cause in France now. Approximately half of them are in the artillery service. Practically all of the field artillery of all the Allied armies below the six-inch gun is horse-drawn. The other half is working at a multitude of duties, most of which have taken them under fire at the front.

It is the horse which takes the ration cart forward over the shell-swept, shell-pitted roads to the men in the line. It is the horse which likewise takes forward the water. It is the horse, too, which transports most of the small arms ammunition and some of the artillery shells, and it is the horse who does this when conditions are the hardest and the weather the worst. With the coming of winter, with its snow, its cold and its mud, the horse just begins his work in earnest. Then he carries on while the automobile seeks firmer, safer paths behind.

Total at 210,000 at First

The American Army now has 169,000 horses and mules on active duty. This is what is left, fit for service at present, of a total of 210,000 horses and mules put into service by the Army. The rest were killed, were wounded, or became sick, and are being treated in hospitals.

Owing to the scarcity of ocean transport facilities, the value of an army horse in Europe is almost incalculable. His cash value is several times what it is in the States. For that reason, extraordinary means are employed for conserving the present supply. A mobile veterinary hospital is attached to each army corps. This receives all sick and wounded horses which there is a possibility of saving. If the case is a serious one, the animals are sent to base hospitals, either French or American. One of the largest veterinary hospitals in France is operated by the American Army. It will accommodate 3,000 animals. A horse goes the cycle of the hospitals about the same way a soldier does and, when he is fit, is returned to service.

Some Do's and Some Don'ts

With all this careful treatment, however, the wastage of horses is high. Some of this is attributed to improper care. There are cases where horses have been allowed to starve to death. To counteract this carelessness, the Billets and Remounts Division has issued this list of do's and don'ts to drivers:

Get acquainted with your horse, so that you will know when he is fit.

Treat him kindly and he will trust you.

Always carry one day's feed of grain.

Have a water bucket as a part of your equipment.

If out of feed, cut or pull grass. Dead grass is better than none at all. If there is no grass, cut brushes or shrubbery.

If you have no water bucket, use your helmet.

When mounted, if you know your horse, you should know when he needs a rest. If you dismount and lead him, you will readily see how much it refreshes him.

Never lose an opportunity to put your horse under shelter at night. If you have no cover, improvise it. A grain sack is quite a protection from rain or cold.

YANKS TO SEARCH FOR LOST ARCHIVES

Ruins of Town Halls Expected to Yield Valuable Harvest

Organizations of the A.E.F. stationed in newly reclaimed communities of France are directed by G.O. 202 to give special attention to the matter of searching the territory occupied by them for documents of all kinds which may be buried in the ruins of town halls or which, originating with the French civil authorities, may be scattered throughout the country.

"These documents," the order says, "though they may be incomplete and partially destroyed, nevertheless will be carefully preserved, for they will serve a special purpose in reconstituting the acts of the civil authorities, and their loss would be for the inhabitants, already sorely tried the cause of new wrongs and injustices."

The documents particularly to be looked out for are parish registers, which, together with whatever may remain of the files belonging to the notaries public, fiscal agents and in general to all public and state officers, are to be put in a place of safety.

Local commanders are to report all finds of documents to the nearest French provost or liaison officer serving with their units, and to request him to take charge of them under such instructions as may be given by the French military command.

TO THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES:

The mission intrusted to us by our country has not been ended by the armistice that is now in operation; and the same devotion to duty and sincere effort to attain efficiency which have marked your participation in the actual conflict are still demanded of you.

It is the desire of our government to return us to our homes at the earliest possible moment, and every effort will be made to accomplish that purpose. It will be as difficult, however, to effect our return to America as it was to bring us to Europe; and any lack of enthusiasm in the tasks still to be accomplished will surely serve to postpone the hour of our departure for the United States.

I trust that each of you will continue to maintain the high standard of efficiency and conduct that has characterized your service in the past; and I expect every officer and soldier to undertake, with the same fine spirit they have always exhibited, the duties yet to be performed before the mission of these forces is successfully completed.

(Signed) JOHN J. PERSHING,
G.O. 211, France, Nov. 20, 1918. General U. S. Army.

BIG S.O.S. WAREHOUSE FEEDS 400,000 MEN

Raw Material for Mess Kits Rushed to Argonne Fight

Life is just a rapid succession of canned fish, cheese, bacon, flour, oatmeal, cornmeal, beans, rice and all the other things that go to make up the menu of the American soldier in France, for the Quartermaster boys at the large American warehouses in the S.O.S.

It was the duty of the men at one particular warehouse to keep a large section of the troops at the late front supplied with all necessities. Sometimes the number of troops supplied from this warehouse unit alone would run as high at 400,000. During the Argonne attack the work required long hours—15 and 16 a day.

Some idea of the amount of foodstuffs sent out from this warehouse unit may be gained from the following average day's shipment: 56,000 cans canned fish, 17,5000 lbs. cheese, 168,000 lbs. bacon, 376,000 lbs. flour, 12,000 lbs. oatmeal, 12,000 lbs. cornmeal, 2,000 lbs. baking powder, 40,000 lbs. beans, 45,000 lbs. rice, 15,000 lbs. hominy, 50,000 cans tomatoes, 21,000 cans jam, 22,500 lbs. prunes, 11,250 lbs. evaporated apples, 5,625 lbs. evaporated peaches, 4,000 gallons syrup, 100,000 lbs. sugar, 37,500 pint cans evaporated milk, 1,000 gallons vinegar, 1,000 gallons pickles, 24,000 lbs. salt, 15,265 lbs. of butter, 420 bottles lemon extract, 420 bottles vanilla extract, 2,888,000 cigarettes, 94,500 small bags tobacco, 42,000 cans smoking tobacco, 1,500 lbs. chewing tobacco, 10,000 rolls toilet paper, 24,000 lbs. issue soap, 750,000 cakes soap, 96,000 boxes matches, 175 cases of cigars, 66,000 lbs. dehydrated potatoes, 78,500 lbs. canned roast beef, 94,000 2-lb. cans corned beef hash.

FRENCH M.P.'S CAN HOLD YANK AWOL'S

American Guardians Also Authorized to Arrest Poilu Absentees

American soldiers who have deserted or are AWOL may be arrested by French military police or gendarmes, under a new reciprocal agreement by which American M.P.'s are also authorized to arrest deserters or absentees from the French army.

The agreement also provides that the French military police may arrest an American soldier who is guilty of misconduct or commits an offense against French law or regulations, and American M.P.'s are given the right to arrest French soldiers under similar circumstances.

Lieutenant: Fasten that button.
Private: Which button, sir?

HOT HOUSE FARMERS TO WORK IN WINTER

Gas Patients Have Temperature Taken After Baseball Game

Old Israel Putnam left his plow in the field to do a little harvesting with the sword, but the record of many American soldiers, convalescing at one of our base hospitals, has been just the opposite.

From the pleasant occupation of making one German grow where two grew before they have gone to that of making two beans grow where one grew before.

Vegetable gardening and working on French farms has proven highly successful at this particular base hospital in giving the wounded a new hold on life. So successful has it been, in fact, that a large hot house has just been finished so that the men may continue their work during the winter.

At this base hospital a ten acre vegetable garden furnished all of the fresh green vegetables for the patients, numbering over four thousand. These vegetables were mostly American varieties, many of them unknown in France.

Besides working in the garden, men have been loaned out to work on adjoining French farms through arrangements made with the French authorities. For this purpose the men are divided into squads of 15 each under the command of a non-commissioned officer.

Baseball for gas patients has achieved most satisfactory results at this same base hospital. After a man has made a long hit and run around the bases or pitched five innings of a close game his temperature is taken.